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## LESSON 14

### NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS (NEO)

*The United States Government is responsible for protecting the lives and safety of its citizens abroad. Often, that task falls to our Armed Forces. When conditions of violence or disorder in foreign countries threaten American lives, United States forces, in support of the Department of State, will use all appropriate means to extract American citizens promptly and safely.*

--National Military Strategy  
of the United States, 1995

*In Liberia, "Assured Response" came from Marine Rifles...Marines of Joint Task Force Assured Response returned fire on Liberian street fighters in the capital of Monrovia April 30, killing four and wounding several more, after gunmen fired at the American Embassy.*

--Leatherneck,  
July 1996

## Introduction

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<b>Purpose</b>	This lesson introduces the national policy objectives concerning U.S. citizens abroad and the command relationships and role of the Department of State during noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs).
<b>Why Study NEO?</b>	Noncombatant evacuation operations are conducted to support the Department of State in evacuating threatened noncombatants and nonessential military personnel from locations in a host foreign nation to an appropriate safe haven or the United States (Joint Pub 3-07.5).
<b>Relationship to Other Instruction</b>	This lesson relates to the lessons on MEU(SOC) presented during the <i>Joint and Multinational Operations</i> (8806) course.
<b>Study Time</b>	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 1 hour of study.

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## Educational Objectives

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<b>National Policy</b>	Explain the national policy objectives concerning U.S. citizens abroad. [JPME Area 1(c)]
<b>Command Relationships</b>	Discuss the command relationships and the role of the Department of State during NEO. [JPME Areas 1(b) and 1(c)]
<b>Different Categories</b>	Explain the different categories of NEO. [JPME Area 2(a)]
<b>Planning Responsibilities</b>	List and explain the planning responsibilities for NEO. [JPME Area 4(b)]
<b>Safe Haven and Repatriation</b>	Explain the terms <b>safe haven</b> and <b>repatriation</b> as related to the conduct of NEO.
<b>JPME Areas/ Objectives/Hours (accounting data)</b>	1/b/0.2 1/c/0.2 2/a/0.2 4/b/0.2

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## Discussion

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**Responsibilities** NEO are always conducted under the direction of the Department of State. The chief of diplomatic mission or principal officer of the Department of State is the lead federal official responsible for the protection and evacuation of all U.S. noncombatants, including DoD dependents.

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**Evacuation** Evacuation of civilians from a hostile situation may require the use of U.S. Armed Forces operating under the control of the Department of State. Commanders in Chief (CINCs) are responsible for planning and conducting NEO in support of the Department of State.

This arrangement, DoD in support of the Department of State, requires comprehension of interdepartmental agreements, national authority, and command relationships.

NEO are usually conducted in an atmosphere of great uncertainty, chaos, and confusion. Command and control of these operations is likewise confusing and complex. This lesson provides you with an understanding of issues and the concepts associated with NEO planning and execution.

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## Required Readings

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- Joint Readings** Joint Pub 3-07.5, *Executive Summary, Commander's Overview and Chapter I, Overview*. Find this reading immediately following this lesson, .pp 855 to 860. Covers tactics and procedures of employing forces for commanders who may need to conduct a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO).
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- Operations Other Than War (OOTW) Readings** Sachtleben, Glen R. LtCol (USMC). "Operation SHARP EDGE: The Corps' MEU(SOC) Program in Action." *Marine Corps Gazette*, November, 1991. Find this reading immediately following this lesson, pp. L-3 to L-12. LtCol Sachtleben discusses the Marine Corps' active participation in Operation Sharp Eagle and details the events leading up to the execution of the operation including the lengthy planning involved and the coordination between Marine and country team assets that was required to successfully conduct such an operation.
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## For Further Study

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### Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommended sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

wJoint Pub 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations*.

wJoint Pub 3-07, *Joint Doctrine for Military Operations Other Than War*.

wJoint Plan for Department of Defense Noncombatant Repatriation, Headquarters, Department of the Army (16 April 1993).

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## Issues for Consideration

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**Operational Environment**

Describe the character of the operational environment within which NEO are likely to occur. What are the characteristics and factors influencing NEO in the following environments: permissive, uncertain, and hostile?

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**Safe Haven**

If NEO take place, evacuees are to be taken to a "safe haven." What is a safe haven? Where is it located, and who is responsible for the safe haven?

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**Repatriation**

What is repatriation? Who is responsible for it?